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FORMER RESIDENT OF VERMONT SENT TO JAIL FOR CHECK SCHEME

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Lebanon Police Chief Randall Chapman, and Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Boston Field Division Kenneth W. Kaiser, announced that Justin Compton, formerly a resident of Bellows Falls, Vermont, was sentenced to 15 months in jail and 5 years of supervised release by United States District Court Judge Paul Barbadoro earlier today.

Compton, age 23, pleaded guilty to bank fraud last October. He acknowledged issuing more than 80 'insufficient funds' checks to numerous businesses and individuals from checking accounts he opened at five federally insured banks in New Hampshire and Missouri. The amount of fraudulent checks written totaled more than \$150,000. He also acknowledged using the falsely inflated balances to withdraw several thousand dollars in cash from the accounts.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Check kiting is a crime that attacks the fundamental principle of commercial transactions, that is, the reliability and soundness of the banking system. My office will aggressively prosecute those individuals who exploit the commercial banking system." After today's hearing, United States Attorney Colantuono praised the efforts of the FBI and the Lebanon Police Department and repeated his commitment to aggressively prosecute all crimes that affect federally insured banks.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Kinsella.